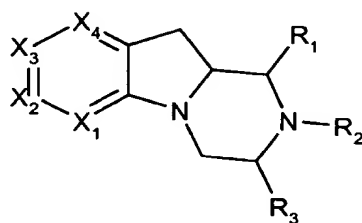


Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a chemical compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

R₁ to R₃ are independently selected from hydrogen and lower alkyl;

X₁ is C-R₄;

X₂ is C-R₅;

X₃ is C-R₆;

X₄ is C-R₇;

R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ ~~R₅ and R₇~~ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkoyl, aryloyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy and alkylthio; ~~[[,]] arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, cyano, carboalkoxy, carboaryloxy and carboxy;~~ and

~~R₆ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino and cyano;~~

with the proviso that R₄ to R₇ are not all selected as hydrogen,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or addition compound thereof; in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

2. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₁ is selected from hydrogen and methyl.

3. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₂ is hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₃ is selected from hydrogen and methyl.

5 - 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein two of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein R₄ and R₆ are hydrogen.

11. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein two of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are independently selected from hydrogen, chlorine, fluorine, trifluoromethyl and bromine.

12. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein three of R₄, R₅, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 12, wherein R₄, R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen.

14. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₄ is hydrogen.

15. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₅ is halogen.

16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₆ is hydrogen.

17. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein R₇ is halogen.

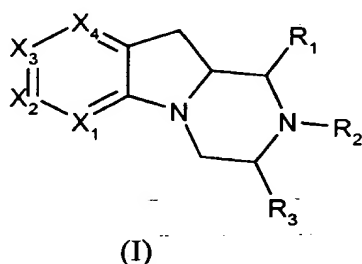
18. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1 which is selected from:

- (*RS*) 7-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (*RS*) 9-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (*RS*) 7-chloro-8-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (10a*R*) 7-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (*RS*) 7-bromo-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (3*S*, 10a*R*) 8-chloro-2-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole,
 - (10a*R*) 8-chloro-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole and
 - (3*S*, 10a*R*) 8-chloro-2-methyl-1,2,3,4,10,10a-hexahydropyrazino[1,2-*a*]indole.
- 19 – 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method of treatment of obesity, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective dose of a compound of formula (I) as set out in claim 1.

30 – 33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I): ~~according to claim 1,~~



wherein:

R₁ to R₃ are independently selected from hydrogen and lower alkyl;

X₁ is C-R₄;

X₂ is C-R₅;

X₃ is C-R₆;

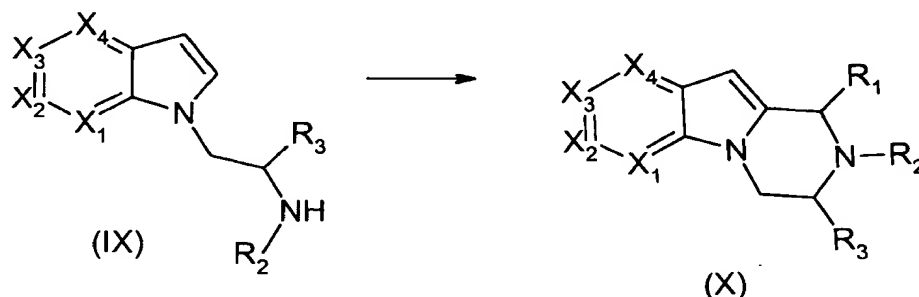
X₄ is C-R₇;

R₄, R₅ and R₇ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkoyl, aryloyl, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, nitro, cyano, carboalkoxy, carboaryloxy and carboxy; and

R₆ is selected from hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, alkylsulfoxyl, arylsulfoxyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino and cyano;

with the proviso that R₄ to R₇ are not all selected as hydrogen,
said process comprising the steps of:

(i) treating a compound of formula (IX) with an aldehyde of formula R, CHO and then exposing to acid to obtain a compound of formula (X), wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄, R₂ and R₃ are as described in claim 1, and

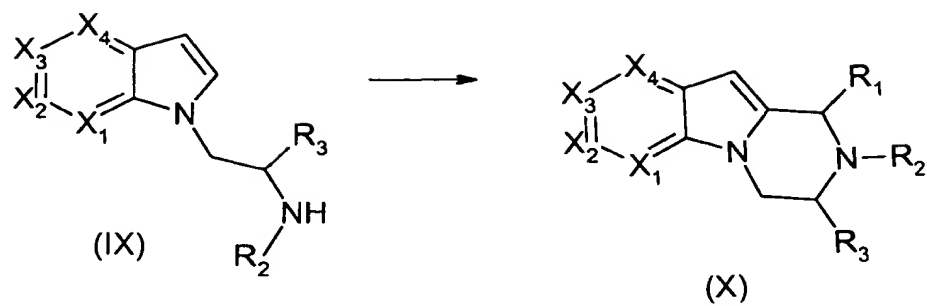


(ii) reduction of a compound of formula (X).

35. (New) A process according to claim 34 with the proviso that where R₁ to R₃ and three of R₄ to R₇ are selected from hydrogen, the remaining R₄ to R₇ is not selected from methoxy.

36. (New) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)
said process comprising the steps of:

(i) treating a compound of formula (IX) with an aldehyde of formula R, CHO and then exposing to acid to obtain a compound of formula (X), wherein X₁, X₂, X₃, X₄, R₂ and R₃ are as described in claim 1, and



(ii) reduction of a compound of formula (X).